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Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.4, No.3 (March 1983)

Northern Lambda Nord

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COMMUNIQUE

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD
POB 990
CARIBOU • MAINE • 04736 • USA

Volume IV: number 3

March 1983

▼ RIGHTS BILL INTRODUCED IN MAINE ▼

Senator Gerard Conley, President of the Maine Senate, recently introduced a bill to add the terms "sexual or affectional orientation" to the Maine Human Rights Act. This bill, Legislative Document 679, the so-called "gay rights" or "total rights" bill, will soon go before the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. The Committee, composed of 3 senators (including Paul Violette of Van Buren) and 10 Representatives (none from Aroostook) will recommend that LD 679 "ought to pass" or "ought not to pass" in the full Legislature.

LD 679, by adding four words to the Human Rights Act, will provide equality of protection of state law to all people in Maine -- a total rights bill. It's imperative that, as a first step in our lobbying efforts, we focus on the Judiciary Committee. To this end, people are encouraged to do one (or more) of the following:

(1) Sign a petition: A copy of the petition which Northern Lambda Nord is circulating among its members is included in this newsletter (to Maine addresses). Everyone is urged to get as many people to sign this as possible. Yes, it means coming out, at least a bit, but surely each of us must know at least 2 people whom we can ask to sign this petition. (Note "sexual orientation" statement on petition.) This petition drive is a statewide effort. Petitions will be submitted to the Judiciary Committee as evidence of statewide support for this legislation. Every signature adds up! Even if you only have one signature on the petition, each is important! Mail the petition NO LATER THAN MARCH 30 to: "Total Rights", c/o INTERWEAVE, Box 215, Augusta, 04330.

(2) Write a letter: Judiciary Committee members (see list below) may receive mail from individuals regarding the need for this legislation. If you can, write a brief statement explaining how you have experienced discrimination. These may be anonymous letters. But state why you are not signing your name -- fear of losing your job if people knew you were gay, etcetera. Every letter counts!!!

(3) Testify at the hearings: The Judiciary Committee has not yet scheduled the hearings on LD 679 (as of March 3). You may call the Legislature to find out when they are to be held and where (1-800-452-4601). Senator Conley recommended calling once per week. If you are willing to tell the Committee, in person, of how you have been discriminated against and provide 'evidence' for the definite need for this bill

PAGE 2

MARCH 1983

HLY COMMUNIQUE

to pass, plan to go to the hearings. The anti-gays, religious right, fundamentalist homophobes, Rev. Buddy Frankland-types will be there in force! THEY'RE not afraid to tell the Committee what they think. We have to tell the Committee OUR side. If you don't feel you can testify in public, your presence is important. "Strength in numbers." Support those people who will testify on our side by attending the hearings and being in the "peanut gallery".

So...set our first aim at the Judiciary Committee and their recommendation for passage of LD 679. Then lobbying must begin, INTENSELY, aimed at our local representatives -- 17 here in Aroostook. On January 17, 1983, in anticipation of this legislation, a questionnaire was sent to the 14 House members and 3 Senators from the County. The questions were to determine our representatives' positions of support of such "total rights" legislation. To date, only Sen. Mike Carpenter from Houlton has responded. He said he would not vote for such a bill. "It's harder for me to vote against it each time" was his comment when asked last November about a total rights bill. Intellectually he's against discrimination, but emotionally (read "religious bias"?) he can't vote for this bill, which would be against discrimination. The 16 County legislators will receive "reminders" of the questionnaires -- and if they still don't have the courtesy to reply, a phonecall will be the next step. If you want to help get these letters out, be at the next office party, March 19 (a Saturday) at 7 p.m. In the meantime, DON'T FORGET THOSE PETITIONS!!!

MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MAINE LEGISLATURE

(D - Democrat, R - Republican) (*Chair of the Committee)

SENATORS:

(#Co-sponsor of LD 679)

*Richard L. Trafton (D) Androscoggin County

Paul E. Violette (D) Van Buren

Samuel W. Collins, Jr (R) Knox County

REPRESENTATIVES:

*Barry Hobbins (D) Saco

Martin Hayden (D) Durham

John Joyce (D) Portland

Lloyd Drinkwater (R) Belfast

J. Robert Carrier (D) Westbrook

James Reeves (R) Newport

#Sharon Benoit (D) South Portland

E. Christopher Livesay (R) Brunswick

David Soule (D) Westbrook

Ruth Foster (R) Ellsworth

LATE WORD: A strategy meeting was held in Augusta on Friday, March 11. Invited to the meeting were representatives of the various lesbian and gay groups in Maine, members of organizations plus individuals who are lobbying in support of the lesbian/gay rights bill, plus members of the State Legislature who are sponsoring the legislation, Senator Conley and Representative Connolly. A report on the meeting's happenings in next month's COMMUNIQUE.

→ JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS SCHEDULED! Monday, April 4, 1983, 1 pm, in Augusta at the State Office Building, Room 113. The location may be changed; call Legislative Information, 1-800-452-4601 or 289-3021, to confirm location of hearings Try to attend!

▼ HONELINE REPORT ▼

The Gay Phonenumber which NLN established in November, 1982 is continuing to work well. Crank calls still occur, and always will; but each evening 2 or 3 legitimate phonecalls are received. Several people have signed up for March and the beginning of April to staff the phones on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 7-9 pm (Maine time). If someone's home, the "Lambda House" residents usually answer the phone during those 2 hours each evening. If you can help by staffing the phonenumber any evening from 7-9 pm, contact an Executive member. Two people per night is recommended, so you can take turns and work together.

Our request for help from other gay phonelines has not gone unheeded. Gays of Thunder Bay (Ontario) sent us a copy of their guidebook which their phonenumber uses. It is required reading for anyone staffing our phonenumber. Hopefully, other guidebooks will be received in the near future.

Kim Strom, director of the Helpline at Aroostook Mental Health Center was our guest at the March 11th discussion group. Report next month.

▼ SYMPOSIUM REPORT ▼

The Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium X planning committee has sent out notification of the following: THE WORKSHOPS planned as of March 7, 1983, are 'lesbian s/m'; NAMBLA, the North American Man/Boy Love Association, with a representative from Boston; workshops on massage and gay youth. TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: John Preston, writer and photographer who resides in Portland, and Kate McQueen, co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Gay Rights National Lobby in Washington DC. STATEWIDE PLANNING MEETING: on Saturday, March 19, 2 pm, 94 Bedford Street, Portland; housing available for Friday/Saturday; 775-0962, ask for Scott Johnson, call when you arrive in Portland, supply your own bedding and food. SYMPOSIUM DATES: May 13, 14, 15, 1983. Plans include a video room, films, dance, play ("Gay Side Story"), book sales. Space is available for selling items, displaying brochures, information. SYMPOSIUM X Committee, POB 5301, Station A, Portland, Maine 04101. ▼

▼ HALIFAX REPORT ▼

The latest news from Nova Scotia is that the Halifax group, Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) has undergone a change of personnel on their Executive Committee. It is hoped that this will begin to solve the financial and organizational troubles which seem to have plagued them for some time. They're talking of still sponsoring the next Atlantic Lesbian and Gay Conference, the one which they were scheduled to host last October.

The Halifax gay bookstore, Alternate Bookstore, has closed. A new one may open within the next year to serve the Halifax community plus the entire Atlantic region, through mail order. ▼

▼ HOMOSEXUALITY IN UPPER FRENCHVILLE ▼

Reverend Roger Chabot, formerly of Saint-Agat', the County, and Lewiston, and a primary organizer of Dignity/Maine, was the guest speaker at the Christian Life Center in Upper Frenchville, Maine, on February 21, 1983. Approximately 20 people attended the workshop, the fourth in a series of 6 on sexuality. Three Lambs were in attendance.

Roger's presentation was a positive one, getting the workshop members to see how homosexuality fits into all aspects of a positive human sexuality.

Four Catholic views of homosexuality were outlined:

- (1) Official Church view: It's OK to be a homosexual, but don't have sex. That's a sin.
- (2) Theologians: Both homo- and heterosexuality are "neutral", not inherently good or evil. Loving, monogamous relationships, whether gay or straight, are good.
- (3) Theologians: Homo- and heterosexual relationships are equally good.
- (4) "Gay Liberation Movement": Homosexuality is better than heterosexuality.

Rev. Chabot's personal view fell between 2 and 3.

For those who missed it, especially if you are Catholic and have trouble resolving your sexuality with your religious beliefs, you missed a good presentation. ▼

▼ GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE vs. THE MILITARY ▼

The Bates College group, the Gay/Straight Alliance, is seeking to bar military service recruiters from the campus due to the military's policy of discrimination against homosexuals. The 30 or so members of the 4-year-old group presented college officials with a proposal outlining their opposition to the recruiters and why they believe the recruiters' presence goes against the college's equal opportunity standards.

A sit-in was held in the Office of Career Counselling on the Bates campus by the G/SA on March 2 to protest the presence of a U.S. Marine recruiter on campus that day. The demonstration was to show "support for a college policy that will grant homosexuals the same protective rights that are currently granted by the college to racial and religious minorities, among others."

(Bates College Gay/Straight Alliance, Health Center, Lewiston, Maine 04240) ▼

▼ SAINTE-JEAN-BAPTISTE AU MAINE? ▼

The Maine Legislature will soon vote on Legislative Document 22, a bill to make June 24, Sainte-Jean-Baptiste Day, a holiday in Maine. A national holiday in Québec, observance of this day in Maine would

recognize the approximately one-third of the state's population whose heritage is French -- from Québec and Acadie.♥

♥ DID YOU SEE?...♥

...SORTIE; le Journal Gai (Montréal): On the Communauté page, édition mars 1983, an article is entitled, "Northern Lambda Nord: une association unique". If you haven't seen it, it's in the periodicals section of Bibliothèque Lambda.

...MOTHER JONES magazine: It's reported in THE BODY POLITIC that the February/ March issue of MOTHER JONES includes an article about gays and lesbians in the military during World War II. The article is written by Alan Berube, one of the presenters at the History Project last summer at the "Doing It!" conference in Toronto. MOTHER JONES is not sold in Aroostook County at any of the magazine stores. If someone would please send us a copy for our library, it would be greatly appreciated. Merci.♥

♥ DID YOU HEAR?...♥

...WOZI/WOZW Radio (Presque Isle): "Uncle Fred's Just Plain Ol' Talk Show" on Monday, February 21, 1983, featured a guest from Northern Lambda Nord. The topic was "Homosexuality" and the Gay Phoneline. This was the second time Lambda members were guests on Alan Weiner's program (He owns both stations). The call-in talk show prompted phonecalls for 3 days following. Lambda has the show recorded on tape in the files of the library. If you missed the show, contact the "Lambda House" to hear the tape. (Also in the Bibliothèque Lambda audio section are the first talk show on WOZI, a television interview on WAGM-TV in Presque Isle, and a recording of the TV interview show on Radio Canada, upon which one of our members appeared.) ♥

♥ BIBLIOTHÈQUE LAMBDA ♥

Two surprise packages arrived March 10th. They contained 15 books, donated to the library by Paul Groves, our Brooklyn benefactor! The unexpected gift included the following titles: "Bent"; "Lord Alfred's Lover"; "5th of July" (three plays); Loving Someone Gay; The Gay Mystique; Sappho was a Right-On Woman; Gay American History; Hite Report on Male Sexuality; Alienated Affections - Being Gay in America; Male Homosexuals; Sunday's Women - Lesbian Life Today; The Lesbian Community; A Way of Love, a Way of Life - A Young Person's Introduction to What it Means to be Gay; Personal Politics - Roots of Women's Liberation; The Lesbian in Literature; "A Gay Bibliography", from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association. THANK YOU, PAUL, for the wonderful gift!

ALL books are due! Cataloguing and preparing the new Bibliothèque list cannot be completed with missing titles. So, Randy, Elsie, Gérard, and CLIFF, please return your books at the next gathering. Merci!

PAGE 5

100

PAGE 6
MARCH 1983
NLN COMMUNIQUE
GAY PHONE LINE
7-9 PM (MAINE) 8-10 PM (N.B.)
207/498-6556

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CALENDRIER NLN
NLN CALENDAR
MARS - AVRIL - MAI 1983
MARCH - APRIL - MAY 1983

- ▼ MARS 19 MARCH - OFFICE PARTY - CARIBOU
- ▼ 27 MARS / MARCH 27 - POT-LUCK MEAL & BUSINESS MEETING - HOULTON
- ▼ 4 AVRIL / APRIL 4 - MAINE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS - AUGUSTA
- ▼ 9 AVRIL / APRIL 9 - EXEC. MEETING, OFFICE PARTY - CARIBOU
- ▼ 15 AVRIL / APRIL 15 - DISCUSSION GROUP - CARIBOU - GUEST SPEAKER: REV. DOUG STRONG, FROM UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN AUGUSTA
- ▼ 24 AVRIL / APRIL 24 - POT-LUCK MEAL AND BUSINESS MEETING - WOODSTOCK
- ▼ 13, 14, 15 MAI / MAY 13, 14, 15 - MAINE LESBIAN AND GAYMEN'S SYMPOSIUM, UNIV. OF SOUTHERN MAINE, PORTLAND CAMPUS.

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NLN COMMUNIQUE

MARS 1983

PAGE 2



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MONCTON, N-B: Gais et lesbiennes de Moncton, CP 7102, Riverview, N-B
HALIFAX, N-E/NS: Gay Alliance for Equality, Box 3611, Sta. South, B3J 3K6; 902/429-6969, M,T,W, 7-9pm, Th,F,Sat, 7-10pm
NORTHERN MAINE/N-B/TEMISCOUATA: NLN, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA; GAY PHONELINE: 207/498-6556, 7-9pm (Maine) 8-10pm (N-B)

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Dans un prochain article je vous parlerai de l'homosexualité en Afrique noir. ▽

On m'a aussi raconté qu'il existe au sud du Maroc un tout petit village de nom de Ta Ta (incroyable mais vrai semble-t-il), qui est reconnu par tout le pays comme ayant une population très inclinée à l'homosexualité. Les principales villes marocaines qui ont aussi une réputation "gate" sont Tanger et Marrakech. Il faut dire que Rabat, la capitale, me semblait loin d'être démunie à cet égard.

Beaucoup de plaisirs. J'ai trouvé l'épisode très amusante!

vous êtes seul! Un vrai régal! A ce sujet, laissez-moi vous raconter une petite anecdote. Tout en me promenant le long d'une magnifique plage, un jeune homme m'approcha et offra de m'accompagner... je n'ai pas donné de réactions pour plusieurs raisons. Croyant que je ne comprenais pas le français il sortit de son pantalon une lettre rédigée en anglais, en allemand et en italien, m'offrant très clairement beaucoup de plaisirs. J'ai trouvé l'épisode très amusante!

trouverez une paire de yeux qui vous souriront et particulièrement si

COMMUNIQUE

N°RTHERN LAMBA N°RD

CP 990

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▲ LE GAI MAROC par J.J. ▲

Laissez-moi vous entretenir quelques instants sur le sujet de l'homosexualité au Maroc.

Chaque année, surtout durant les mois les plus chauds, de nombreux gais de l'Allemagne et de la Scandinavie, soit de l'Europe du nord, viennent prendre congé au Maroc. Les palmiers, les plages et le soleil ne sont pas les seuls facteurs à les attirer. En effet, les beaux Marocains sont très chaleureux (pour ne pas dire chauds).

L'homosexualité chez les Arabes n'est pas un nouveau phénomène. L'attriance des hommes vis à vis d'autres hommes et en particuliers pour les jeunes garçons a souvent été noté dans l'histoire de ce peuple. La femme arabe a joué et à plusieurs égards continue de jouer un rôle très passif et isolé au sein de la société arabe. Et dans les régions très pratiquantes et conservatrices de l'Islam elles sont même très peu visibles. Aussi dans les rues, aux marchés, dans les parcs il est plus fréquent de voir deux hommes marchés main dans la main que de voir un homme et une femme dans une situation intime. Aussi dans les jeux on remarque que les petits gamins s'amusent ensembles mais le plus souvent à part des groupes de gamines. Les rôles des sexes sont encore très définis dans le monde musulman.

Malgré que la religion musulmane défend fortement les actes intimes entre individus du même sexe, la pratique se veut différente de la théorie. Mais attention, le Maroc n'est pas un paradis gai sur terre! Il faut tenir compte de quelques facteurs.

Souvent les jeunes hommes qui vous approchent ne s'engagent dans un acte que pour l'argent qu'il rapporte. Il ne faut pas oublier que le Maroc connaît encore beaucoup de pauvreté, c'est en toute évidence un pays en voie de développement. Il faut donc avant de s'engager avec qui que ce soit s'assurer qu'il y a entente réciproque, soit argent ou pas argent. Et le coût? A Rabat, la capitale, je n'ai jamais constaté qu'un client ait payé plus de 5 ou 10 dshams, soit \$1 ou \$2 Canadien (un pourboire quoi!)

Il ne faut pas se surprendre aussi de voir le bonhomme d'hier faire une passe à une jeune dame, touriste. La préférence sexuelle ne semble pas avoir la même importance qu chez-nous!

Chose certaine il est très facile de "cruiser" au Maroc. Dans presque tous les parcs, prêt des monuments historiques, sur la plage vous